

U.S. LEGISLATORS WILL SPEAK AT OFB CONVENTION

From Oklahoma Farm Bureau

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Oklahoma's senior U.S. Sen. Don Nickles and three members of the House of Representatives will speak at Oklahoma Farm Bureau's 55th annual convention in Tulsa.

The 55th annual meeting, Nov. 17-19 at the Southern Hills Marriott in Tulsa, also features U.S. Representatives Frank Lucas, Steve Largent and Bill Brewster along with a video message from Congressman-Elect Wes Watkins.

Sen. Nickles will be featured during the afternoon general session, Monday, Nov. 18. Lucas, the sixth district office holder and a member of the House Agriculture committee, follows Nickles during that same session.

Watkins, who regained his third district seat in Congress, will address the morning general session on Nov. 18 via a videotaped message. Also scheduled at that session are Oklahoma Speaker-Elect of the House Loyd Benson and Dennis Howard, Oklahoma Commissioner of Agriculture.

Largent, the first district office holder, will be the featured speaker during the Tuesday, Nov. 19 morning general session.

Brewster, the current third district office holder, will speak during the Sunday, Nov.

17 awards and recognition program.

"We are proud to welcome this outstanding group of lawmakers to our annual convention," said Matt Wilson, OFB Executive Director. "Oklahoma Farm Bureau is proud of the state's entire Congressional delegation, the work they do on behalf of our state and the strong support they show for Farm Bureau policy in their respective chambers."

He also pointed out that Oklahoma's lawmakers were one of the few, if not only, state delegations officially recognized with "Friend of Farm Bureau Awards." Those awards recognize lawmakers who had at least a 60 percent voting record on Farm Bureau priority issues during the 104th Congress.

The OFB board of directors nominated Oklahoma's entire delegation for the award. The American Farm Bureau Federation board of directors approved the nomination. Nationally, 253 of the 535 Members of Congress qualified for the Friend of Farm Bureau Award.

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sion in two years, said Gordon Gore, a representative of the Commerce Department.

Gore said that when gasoline costs \$1.20 per gallon, natural gas only costs 46 cents. Natural gas is also a cleaner burning fuel. Vehicles which burn natural gas require less maintenance than gasoline-burning vehicles, Gore said. The oil in the natural gas vehicles also stays cleaner and the vehicles release fewer pollutants into the air.

The City of Guymon also has its own natural gas site, Gore said.

A joint project, called the Texas Windpower Project, submitted by the Texas General Land Office and the Lower Colorado River Authority won Best in Category for utility technology, said Betsy Bird, project manager for Renew America, a non-profit organization contracted by the U.S. Department of Energy to organize the awards program.

The Massachusetts Port Authority won Best in Category in the transportation area with its alternative fuel infrastructure developments and vehicle procurement program, Bird said.

According to Renew America records, 225 projects were submitted in the competition in six categories. The categories include building technology, energy technology and education, federal energy activities, industrial technology, transportation technology and utility technology.

Along with the lawmakers, there will be a full slate of business at the annual meeting.

Delegates will determine OFB policy for 1997 when they tackle resolutions submitted by county Farm Bureaus.

Delegates from districts one, four and seven will caucus to elect state directors. Farm Bureau Women also will caucus for state committee members from those districts. The women also will elect a state FBW chairman.

The Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee will caucus during the meeting and elect state committee officers.

Two educational workshops are scheduled Nov. 18. "Forecasts for the '97 Livestock and Grain Markets," and "The Farm Bill and CRP Implementation" will be repeated to allow everyone interested to attend both programs.

Political commentators Burns Hargis and Mike Turpen will speak in their popular "Flashpoint" venue Monday afternoon.

911 Service, cont. from page 4

will be the headquarters for a regional system. Adair County has expressed interest in becoming part of the emergency 911 region.

All other existing 911 systems are due for replacement as soon as possible Leikheim said, because the older technology doesn't recognize 10-digit dialing, wireless calling or number portability.

The Oklahoma Chapter will celebrate their first year of service with an anniversary meeting January 30 in Tulsa. Exhibits will be set up to demonstrate the newest technology for rural and urban areas. The meeting begins at 10 a.m., and will be followed by a banquet, featuring guest speaker Laverne Hogan, of Houston.

Legislature Swearing In Tuesday, November 19

Senate 11 am
Senate Chamber

House at noon
House Chamber

Projects are evaluated on the basis of the following criteria: program effectiveness, natural resource conservation, economic progress and energy education and awareness. Projects must be operational for at least one year to allow documentation of the projected energy savings or the program results.

One Best in Category award is given in each area, Bird said. Eight special recognitions can be given in each category. Thirty-five special recognition awards were given this year. Each project entered receives a certificate of recognition.

Renew America, Washington, D.C., promotes successful environmental protection programs and also hosts its own national awards competition.

"A professional politician's first duty is to appeal to the forces that unite us, and to channel the forces that divide us into paths where a democratic solution is possible. It is our obligation to resolve issues — not to create them."

Lyndon Baines Johnson
Life
Nov. 29, 1963